

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

OSBORNE, Thomas W. (Republican)  
Representative, 3rd District, Nebraska  
Elected 2000 to 107th Congress  
Reelected to succeeding Congress



## BACKGROUND

Born: Hastings, Nebraska - 23 February 1937

Home: Lemoyne, Nebraska

Marital status: Married (Nancy) - three children

Religion: Methodist

Education: Hastings College, B.A. 1959; U of Nebraska, M.A. 1963; Ph.D., 1965

Military: Nebraska National Guard, 1960-66

Profession: Educator; college football coach; professional football player

Political: Defeated Rollie Reynolds (D) with 82% of the vote to succeed Rep Bill Barrett (R), who retired. Reelected in 2002 with 93% of the vote. No prior elected office.

Rep Osborne, a conservative, favors smaller government, more local control, and lower taxes. He supports a reduction in the capital gains tax as well as the removal of the estate tax. Supports campaign finance reform. Took a pledge not to accept individual campaign contributions over \$300. Expected to continue his predecessor's work to protect farming interests, focusing on issues affecting his agrarian district, such as revitalizing the ag-based economy and reversing the depopulation of the district. Supports free trade as an important way to promote exports of Nebraska farm goods.

In the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress, worked with Rep Ford (D-TN) to introduce H.R. 3465, the Call to Service Act. In addition to expanding opportunities through AmeriCorps, the Call to Service Act would establish an 18-18-18 military plan: 18 months of active duty, 18 months of reserve duty, with an \$18,000 stipend to be paid upon completion of military service. The 125,000 people who would be involved in this program would provide for the national defense by guarding borders, airports, buildings, or assisting with medical disasters involving bioterrorism (resolution stalled in the Subcommittee on Select Education). In support of the FY03 National Defense Authorization Act, stated, "This legislation demonstrates our solid support for American military service people who are engaged in the war against terrorism and voluntarily putting their lives on the line to preserve the freedoms we take for granted. I am particularly pleased that the legislation provides for concurrent receipt for our military retirees with service-related disabilities and improves the Montgomery GI Bill for reserves by extending the period for benefit use.

Cosponsored H.J. Res 114, authorizing President Bush to use military force against Iraq.

Additional: Served 25 years as head coach of the Univ of Nebraska football team, which provided him state-wide name recognition; received his doctorate in educational psychology. After retiring from football, sponsored a youth mentoring program called "TeamMates," which he may try to implement on a nationwide basis.

His district contains NG Mead MTA and Cornhusker Army Ammunition Plant.  
AF Bases: Peacekeeper Missile sites (F.E. Warren AFB); closed Hastings RBSS was in the district

## COMMITTEES

AGRICULTURE

EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

## RESOURCES